

CLAIMS

1. A protein which comprises the same or
5 substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino
acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, or a salt
thereof.
2. A partial peptide of the protein according to
claim 1, or a salt thereof.
- 10 3. A DNA which comprises a DNA encoding the
protein according to claim 1.
4. A DNA according to claim 3, which has the base
sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.
5. A recombinant vector which comprises the DNA
15 according to claim 3.
6. A transformant transformed with the recombinant
vector according to claim 5.
7. A method of producing the protein or its salt
according to claim 1, which comprises culturing the
20 transformant according to claim 6 and producing and
accumulating the protein according to claim 1.
8. An antibody to the protein according to claim 1,
the partial peptide according to claim 2, or a salt
thereof.
- 25 9. A method of determining a ligand to the protein
or its salt according to claim 1, which comprises using
the protein according to claim 1 or the partial peptide
according to claim 2, or a salt thereof.
10. A method of screening a compound or its salt
30 that alters the binding property between a ligand and
the protein or its salt according to claim 1, which
comprises using the protein according to claim 1, the
partial peptide according to claim 2, or a salt thereof.
11. A kit for screening a compound or its salt
35 that alters the binding property between a ligand and

the protein or its salt according to claim 1, which comprises the protein according to claim 1 or the partial peptide according to claim 2, or a salt thereof.

5 12. A compound or its salt that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or its salt according to claim 1, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 10 or the screening kit according to claim 11.

10 13. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound or its salt that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or its salt according to claim 1, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 10 or the screening kit according to claim 11.

15 14. A DNA which hybridizes to the DNA according to claim 3 under highly stringent conditions.